

REFUGE POINT

2023 third quarter report

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Wivne, a mother of three and refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was forced to flee her home due to fear of persecution. The family currently resides in Nairobi, Kenya and are awaiting resettlement. Photo: Chris Jensen

Quarterly Highlight

Over 110 million people – about one in 74 of the world’s population — have been forced from their homes as a result of conflict. Many refugees are separated from loved ones along the way, and far too many may never be reunited. Those fortunate enough to trace the whereabouts of lost family members often remain separated by international borders and restrictive immigration laws. RefugePoint helps refugees reunite with family members and works to make family reunification more accessible so refugees in host countries can join family in the U.S. and worldwide.

On September 20th, RefugePoint launched the Family Reunification Initiative, a strategic effort to reunite one million refugee families over the next five years. RefugePoint will play a leading role in the initiative, working with UNHCR, the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), and other partners. Reuniting unaccompanied and separated refugee children with parents and family members will be a major focus of the initiative.

RefugePoint aims to raise more than \$8 million to realize this ambitious goal.

Through this new initiative, RefugePoint will:

- Directly help refugees in many host countries around the world to reunite with loved ones.
- Pilot and scale innovative approaches to increase refugees’ access to family reunification casework and related supports.
- Train and enable other organizations to support refugee family reunification, with an emphasis on engagement of refugee-led organizations and diasporas.
- Help to spearhead the Global Family Reunification Network, a coalition that shares best practices and aims to advance family reunification efforts around the world.

Self-Reliance:

Helping refugees improve their lives

Direct Services

Providing lasting solutions for at-risk refugees remains at the core of our work. RefugePoint focuses on equipping urban refugees in Nairobi, Kenya to become self-reliant. We achieve this through stabilizing support services to ensure access to food, shelter, medical care, and empowerment through counseling, skill-building, and livelihoods assistance.

During Q3, more clients received services that allowed them to reach a point of stability than any previous quarter. Additionally, an increased number of clients graduated from the Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP) after reaching a point of self-reliance, despite a worsening economic situation in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the quarter, RefugePoint reached 635 individuals with public health and other information through community meetings, phone calls, and bulk messages. The information shared included how to explore livelihood activities in the challenging economic environment, hygiene, nutrition, food handling, child care, and setting household goals. We provided health assistance to 997 individuals and supported 49 of them to register with the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF).

As a first step towards self-reliance, RefugePoint provided stabilization services, including food support for 732 individuals, rent support for 246 individuals, and non-food items to 71 individuals. We distributed the food physically to clients in various neighborhood across Nairobi and shared anti-fraud information with them. Three hundred and thirty-seven children in our education program continued receiving assistance and made preparations for their end-of-year exams.

Through individual and group sessions, RefugePoint provided counseling to 115 clients. Our counselors worked multiple clients facing extreme mental health challenges to support their in their recovery. Their counseling sessions are ongoing.

RefugePoint also provided business grants to 47 additional clients after they successfully completed our Business Development Skills (BDS) training. Some of the clients, especially those trading in apparel, ventured into online marketing and had good results. One of the clients sold home decor items, mainly embroidered seat covers to a customer in Australia, while another sold clothes to a customer in Sweden.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

Q3 **635**
YTD **10,105**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



Clients Receiving Medical Assistance

Q3 **997**
YTD **2,769**



Food Assistance

Q3 **732**
YTD **985**



Education Support

Q3 **337**
YTD **465**



Counseling

Q3 **159**
YTD **309**



Businesses Launched

Q3 **47**
YTD **133**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q3 **42**
YTD **262**

Field Building and Systems Change

In addition to the direct services that we provide to urban refugees in Nairobi, Kenya to achieve self-reliance, we also work to make large-scale impact through field building and systems change. One way that we aim to achieve that is through the [Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative \(RSRI\)](#), which promotes opportunities for refugees around the world to become self-reliant and achieve a better quality of life. The RSRI, co-founded by RefugePoint and the [Women's Refugee Commission](#), aims to collectively reach five million refugees with self-reliance programming in five years and, in the process, to identify the most effective models and measurements to aid the global expansion of self-reliance opportunities.

RefugePoint and the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) convened a three-day learning event in Nairobi, Kenya that brought together 80+ refugee leaders and representatives of NGOs, UNHCR, Government of Kenya, and donors. The convening facilitated connection-building and knowledge exchange to expand the meaningful engagement of refugee-led organizations (RLOs), with a focus on advancing refugee self-reliance in Kenya and more broadly through the upcoming Global Refugee Forum. The agenda and objectives for the meeting were developed through a co-design process with 14 RLOs in Nairobi.

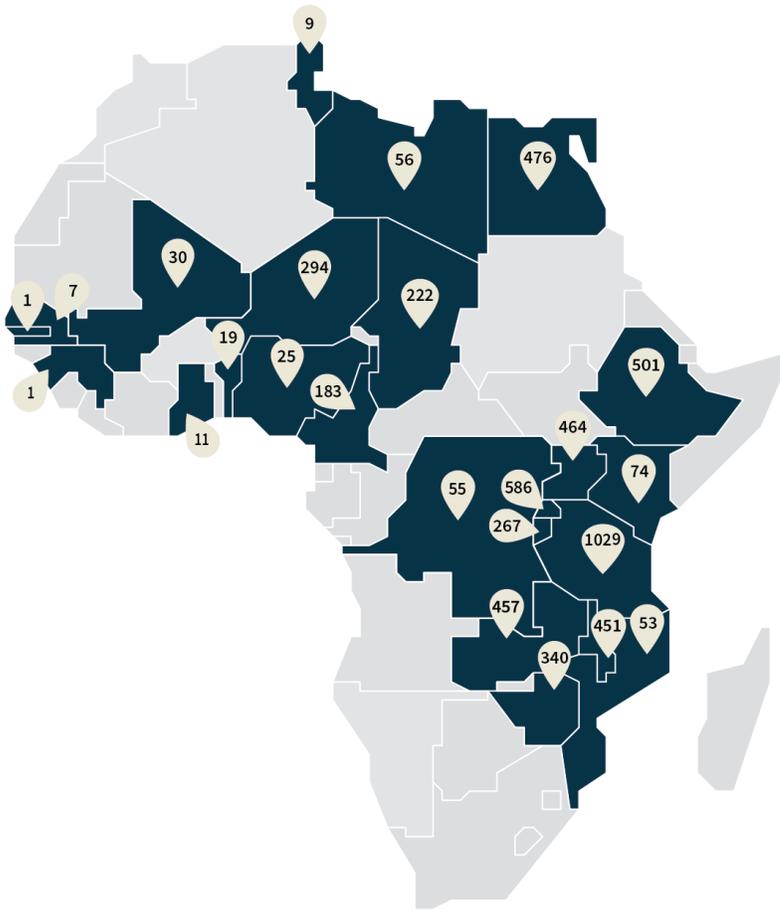
RefugePoint provided funding support to three, Nairobi-based RLOs implementing self-reliance programs for refugees and host community members: Umoja Refugee RLO, Youth Voices Community RLO, and Oak Solutions CBO. The grants are accompanied by technical and capacity-sharing assistance from RefugePoint, including support with narrative and financial report writing.

The RSRI hosted a [Steering Committee](#) meeting in August in Nairobi – the first-ever in-person gathering of the committee. The group met to review and discuss the RSRI's work, the future plans of the RSRI, and how to enhance support for refugee self-reliance efforts around the globe. The committee had the opportunity to visit RefugePoint's Nairobi office and several other local organizations promoting refugee self-reliance. While in Nairobi, RSRI academic advisors conducted user group comparison research in order to further strengthen the Self-Reliance Index.

In September, the RSRI also hosted a webinar for Community of Practice members and sector professionals on Market Systems Development (MSD). This session provided an introduction to the concept of MSD and how it empowers refugees and other marginalized communities by fostering inclusive livelihoods and essential services.

Resettlement & Other Pathways:

Helping refugees relocate to safety



Direct Services

In addition to equipping refugees to become self-reliant, we also work to relocate refugees to safety through resettlement and other legal migration pathways, such as visa programs for family reunification, employment, and education.

This quarter, RefugePoint helped 7,473 refugees access resettlement and other pathways to safety from 102 locations in 36 countries worldwide.

During Q3, an agreement was established with HIAS Kenya to refer cases for resettlement and support to obtain custody orders for single-parent families in the resettlement pipeline. RefugePoint's Kenya office continued to identify and refer these and other vulnerable clients for resettlement, submitting 240 individuals to the U.S. for resettlement consideration in fiscal year 2023 and surpassing its target of 200 individuals.

RefugePoint's labor mobility program continued to screen refugees interested in Canada's Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP) program. For the first time, this included candidates with professional experience in construction and hospitality as well as healthcare.

RefugePoint Resettlement Experts achieved a historic milestone, supporting 25% more refugees in accessing resettlement than in any previous quarter – 6097 people. Conflicts and unrest disrupted work in Ethiopia, Sudan and Niger, important locations for resettlement case processing. RefugePoint Experts fulfilled resettlement submission targets in Cameroon, Egypt, Malawi, Senegal (covering West and Central Africa region), Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, and were instrumental in utilizing all available resettlement spots. (Continued)

Refugees Assisted in the 3rd Quarter

Countries where RefugePoint assisted refugees to access resettlement and other pathways to safety.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. BANGLADESH* - 182 | 20. MALI - 30 |
| 2. BENIN - 19 | 21. MOZAMBIQUE - 53 |
| 3. BURKINA FASO - 28 | 22. NIGER - 294 |
| 4. BURUNDI - 267 | 23. NIGERIA - 25 |
| 5. CAMEROON - 183 | 24. PAKISTAN* - 157 |
| 6. CHAD - 222 | 25. RWANDA - 586 |
| 7. CONGO KINSHASA - 55 | 26. SAUDI ARABIA* - 25 |
| 8. EGYPT - 476 | 27. SENEGAL - 7 |
| 9. ETHIOPIA - 501 | 28. TANZANIA - 1029 |
| 10. GAMBIA - 1 | 29. THAILAND* - 36 |
| 11. GHANA - 11 | 30. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO* - 62 |
| 12. GUATEMALA* - 39 | 31. TUNISIA - 9 |
| 13. GUINEA - 1 | 32. TURKEY* - 83 |
| 14. IRAQ* - 131 | 33. UGANDA - 464 |
| 15. JORDAN* - 869 | 34. VIETNAM* - 17 |
| 16. KENYA - 74 | 35. ZAMBIA - 457 |
| 17. LEBANON* - 237 | 36. ZIMBABWE - 340 |
| 18. LIBYA - 56 | |
| 19. MALAWI - 451 | |

* = COUNTRY NOT SHOWN ON MAP

Experts performed critical work to advance other pathways in host and destination countries. RefugePoint’s Expert in Paris welcomed a cohort of 17 refugee students who were accepted to continue their studies in France towards their Masters degrees. This Expert advocates for and supports the students individually by coordinating between various stakeholders such as universities, UNHCR offices, government agencies, embassies and consulates. In a heartwarming interaction at the airport, a woman approached the students, tears in her eyes, and expressed how their happiness and positive energy had deeply moved her. This encounter highlighted the transformative power of education and the profound impact not only on the students but also on those witnessing their journey.

Field Building and Systems Change

In addition to helping refugees relocate to safety through direct services, RefugePoint also hosts trainings, develops tools, and makes policy recommendations to improve global systems related to resettlement and other pathways. This quarter, our staff trained 299 individuals from UNHCR and partner organizations on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

RefugePoint prioritized mapping and identifying potential locations, partners, and target populations to expand NGO referrals in Southern Africa and in West and Central Africa. As a result of this exercise, RefugePoint identified a prospective NGO referrals partner in each region and completed a partner assessment and vetting process. The process was carried out in consultation with each actor to better understand their programming, policies, and procedures, and identify areas that require strengthening to meet minimum standards for an NGO referrals partner. The team looks forward to engaging with these and other partners in the coming quarters to support their development and implementation of referrals to promote equitable access to resettlement for refugees in the selected locations.

RefugePoint’s Nairobi-based labor mobility team delivered training and capacity-strengthening support for UNHCR staff and organizations who are establishing new labor mobility programs across East Africa and in the Middle East and Latin America. Through these sessions, RefugePoint shared experiences and key learning gained over the past five years as a partner in Canada’s Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP), with the goal of supporting the success of colleagues and partners as they set up their own labor mobility programs.

As preparations intensified for the Global Refugee Forum that is slated to take place in December 2023, RefugePoint also provided technical assistance to colleague organizations and other actors as they worked to develop their pledges related to resettlement, family reunification, and skilled pathways (with a focus on labor mobility). Through the pledging process, important commitments are made to implement activities that will increase access to resettlement and complementary pathways and measure their impact over the next four years.

Quarterly: Q3 2023

7,473

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways to safety this quarter.

Annually: 2023

18,823

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways to safety this year so far.



Cross-Cutting Protection Priorities

Child Protection

RefugePoint prioritizes refugee children in all of our programs and we collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. This quarter, our staff conducted and reviewed child protection assessments for 465 refugee children.

RefugePoint staff assisted 465 children with accessing resettlement, benefitting 1,586 family members. Experts stressed the ongoing difficulties children face in protracted situations. RefugePoint's Child Protection Expert in Türkiye described the compounding vulnerabilities affecting children and their caregivers as a result of the earthquake earlier this year, which increased the backlog of cases in need of assessment. To respond to the pressing child protection needs in Türkiye, RefugePoint's Expert trained 133 child protection staff composed of caseworkers and child psychologists from 25 provinces across the country.

RefugePoint's Child Protection Experts continue to facilitate training sessions for partner and UNHCR child protection staff on Best Interests Procedures and quality assurance to increase the volume and quality of submissions. In Q3, Experts held eight child protection trainings, reaching 213 participants in Chad, Turkey, and Bangladesh. The Nairobi Child Protection team worked with RefuSHE and Kibiko Home Shelter, to coordinate safe shelter support for two unaccompanied children who were in the family reunification process, which was successful; the two UACs traveled to Europe in October and were reunited with their older sister.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) includes any support that people receive to protect or promote their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing (physical, economic, social, mental, emotional, cultural, and spiritual determinants of health). It is a key component of wellness for staff and crucial for the self-reliance of clients.

In Q3, as part of the Creating Culture of Trauma Informed Care (CCTIC) review, the Accountability and Oversight Committee (AOC), an advisory board consisting of refugee leadership, reviewed the process and results of the CCTIC to inform how to disseminate results, and integrate feedback into future design.

In July, Dr. Sonasha Braxton attended the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPSi) Conference, where she participated in multiple sessions to ensure continuous learning and improved clinical competency for RefugePoint's MHPSS program. As an ABPSi Leadership Development Institute Fellow, she presented on designing an African-centered MHPSS Rapid Emergency Response System Mechanism with the desired impact of influencing systems change through the reimagination of existing global strategies.

In September, the Community Liaison position was filled by Ann-Marie Mashimwe, who will play a leadership role in the development and implementation of community MHPSS initiatives. Dr. Braxton visited Nairobi to train staff, meet with program managers for feedback on trauma-informed care integration, and lead professional development to increase clinical competencies, among other things.



Latifa, outside RefugePoint's Nairobi office. Photo: Chris Jensen

The Power of Education: Latifa's Story

When Latifa, 20, arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2009 with her grandmother and siblings, the family struggled to survive. Latifa and her siblings tragically lost their parents during the militia attacks in Somalia that forced them to flee. The children could not attend school in Nairobi because they had to work to help their grandmother support the household.

“I’ve always had a desire to go to school, and I’ve always wanted to be a doctor because of my grandmother. She used to be a midwife. That’s why I want to go to school and become a doctor,” Latifa shared.

In 2016, RefugePoint began supporting Latifa and her family, including providing full educational scholarships to Latifa and her siblings. When Latifa began school for the first time at age 11, she was elated. “I was very happy because, as a child,

seeing my friends going to school while I had to stay home was not happy. I am going to school so that I can better my life. School and completing my studies mean everything to me,” Latifa shared.

For refugee children, going to school serves as an essential protection tool. At school, refugee children can rebuild critical support systems (teachers, mentors, coaches) that they may have lost. Being at school has allowed Latifa the space and energy to focus on her studies. “Being at school the whole day, I don’t have to worry about everything at home. All I have to worry about is my studies.”

This year, Latifa will move one step closer to her goal of becoming a doctor when she completes high school. “I am very proud of her,” says Kimani, RefugePoint’s Education Officer, “She makes our work worth doing every single day.”

Staffing & Finances

Development Update

As of Q3, RefugePoint had raised \$7,558,853 against expenses of \$8,998,329. This continuing negative variance is mainly due to a number of larger gifts expected in Q4 of this year and multi-year grants allocated for use in 2023 that were received in previous years.

Financial Update

Q3 was an exciting quarter for RefugePoint's development team. In July, we hosted some funders and a board member at our office in Nairobi, Kenya. This impactful learning journey allowed for engagement with our Nairobi staff and a deeper understanding of our self-reliance and third-country solutions work. In August, our Chief Development Officer, Sarah Hidey, visited RefugePoint's Resettlement Experts and UNHCR in Islamabad, Pakistan to learn more about their work supporting Afghan refugees in need of resettlement. RefugePoint raised funds in 2022 and 2023 to support this work.

In September, RefugePoint co-hosted an event with the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative at Nubeluz by Chef José Andrés in New York City during the UN General Assembly week. This event, sponsored by Julia Dhar (RefugePoint Board Member) and Vilas Dhar (President of the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation), featured supporting remarks from the humanitarian chef, Academy Award-winning actor Susan Sarandon, Moderna Co-founder and Chairman Noubar Afeyan, Board Member Lina Tori Jan, and other philanthropists. At this event, RefugePoint launched the Family Reunification Initiative, as mentioned in the introduction, and announced a generous \$1 million commitment from the Afeyan Family Foundation towards this five-year, \$8 million initiative!

Staffing

In Nairobi, the following staff joined in Q3: Mercy Kimanathi as a Senior Associate, Social Work, Catherine Kalii as a Senior Associate, Finance and Storekeeper, Christine Ogonda as the Program Assistant, Front Desk, Anne-Marie Manishimwe as a Senior Associate, Community Liaison, and Martin Onyantha as an Intern, Social Work.

In Boston, we welcomed Jenna Hornsby as our new Manager, Philanthropic Partnerships.